



Mounting job vacancies push state and local governments into a wage war for workers

By DAVID A. LIEB
Associated Press

FULTON, Mo. (AP) — At the entrance to Missouri prisons, large signs plead for help: "NOW HIRING" ... "GREAT PAY & BENEFITS." No experience is necessary. Anyone 18 and older can apply. Long hours are guaranteed. Though the assertion of "great pay" for prison guards would have seemed dubious in the past, a series of state pay raises prompted by widespread vacancies has finally made a difference. The Missouri Department of Corrections set a record for new applicants last month.



Continued on Page 2 Maj. Albin Narvaez stands near a series of outdoor recreation cages used for prisoners who are in administrative segregation at the Fulton Reception and Diagnostic Center, Thursday, July 13, 2023, in Fulton, Mo..

Associated Press

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

Professional complimentary pictures on Tuesdays & Fridays

SUNDAY
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30pm - 8:30pm

MONDAY
ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30pm - 8:30pm

TUESDAY
JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30pm - 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY
EDDIE KROON
SINGER
6:30pm - 8:30pm

THURSDAY
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30pm - 8:30pm

FRIDAY
RICKY THOMAS
GUITARIST
7:00pm - 9:00pm

SATURDAY
ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30pm - 8:30pm

Everyday Happy Hour
★ 12-1 / 4-6 / 9-10 ★

All Premium Brands
Elegant dining, spectacular ocean views
enjoyed al fresco or in air-conditioned comfort

KARAOKE HAPPY HOUR
9:00pm - 11:00pm

Reservations at: watersedge-aruba.com

Tel. +297 583 8000 Ext. 8106

Located at Costa Linda Beach Resort

WATER'S EDGE
RESTAURANT & BAR

2,000,000 SUMMER POINT GIVEAWAY – 20 WINNERS DAILY

SUNDAY FUNDAY
B I N G O

Fun 4-Card BINGO
starting at 1pm!

\$7 for 4-Card BINGO | 8 Games to Play
\$1,500 in Cash Prizes

SPECIAL PROGRESSIVE GAME

Jackpot within 50 Calls | 51 Calls or more \$111

Additional \$500 Cash Prize in our Monthly Early Bird Drawing when you purchase your card before noon!

Alhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Offering a wide variety of Retail & Dining Outlets,
Salon & Spa Services, Souvenirs and more.

Dunkin Donuts | Baskin Robbins | Fusion Piano & Wine Bar
Hungry Piranha | Twist of Flavors | Juan Valdez Café
The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood
Auntie Anne's Pretzels

Mounting job vacancies push state and local governments into a wage war for workers

Continued from Front

"After we got our raise, we started seeing people come out of the woodwork, people that hadn't worked in a while," said Maj. Albin Narvaez, chief of custody at the Fulton Reception and Diagnostic Center, where new prisoners are housed and evaluated.

Public employers across the U.S. have faced similar struggles to fill jobs, leading to one of the largest surges in state government pay raises in 15 years. Many cities, counties and school districts also are hiking wages to try to retain and attract workers amid aggressive competition from private sector employers.

The wage war comes as governments and taxpayers feel the consequences of empty positions.

In Kansas City, Missouri, a shortage of 911 operators doubled the average hold times for people calling in emergencies. In one Florida county, some schoolchildren frequently arrived late as a lack of bus drivers delayed routes. In Arkansas, abused and neglected kids remained longer in foster care because of a caseworker shortage. In various cities and states, vacancies on road crews meant cracks and potholes took longer to fix than many motorists might like.

"A lot of the jobs we're talking about are hard jobs," said Leslie Scott Parker, executive director of the National Association of State Personnel Executives.

Lingering vacancies "eventually affects service to the public or response times to needs," she added.

Workforce shortages worsened across all sorts of jobs due to a wave of retirements and resignations that began during the pandemic. Many businesses, from restaurants to hospitals, responded nimbly with higher wages and incentives to attract employees. But governments by nature are slower to act, requiring pay raises to go through



A "Now Hiring" sign is shown at the entrance to a Missouri Department of Corrections prison facility, Thursday, July 13, 2023, in Fulton, Mo.

Associated Press

a legislative process that can take months to complete — and then can take months more to kick in.

Meanwhile, vacancies mounted.

In Georgia, state employee turnover hit a high of 25% in 2022. Thousands of workers left the Department of Corrections, pushing its vacancy rate to around 50%. The state began a series of pay raises. This year, all state employees and teachers got at least a \$2,000 raise, with corrections officers getting \$4,000 and state troopers \$6,000.

The Georgia Department of Corrections used an ad agency to bolster recruitment and held an average of 125 job fairs a month. It's starting to pay off. In the first week of July, the department received 318 correctional officer applications — nearly double the weekly norm, said department Public Affairs Director Joan Heath. Almost 1 in 4 positions — more than 2,500 jobs — were empty in the Missouri Department of Corrections late last year, which was twice the pre-pandemic vacancy rate in 2019. Missouri gave state workers a 7.5% pay raise in 2022. This spring, Gov. Mike Parson signed an emergency spending bill with

an additional 8.7% raise, plus an extra \$2 an hour for people working evening and night shifts at prisons, mental health facilities and other institutions. The vacancy rate for entry level corrections officers now is declining, and the average number of applications for all state positions is up 18% since the start of last year.

At the Fulton prison, where staff shortages have led to a standard 52-hour work week, newly hired employees can earn around \$60,000 annually — an amount roughly equal to the state's median household income. The prison also is proposing to provide free child care to correctional officers willing to work nights.

If prison staffing is too low, "it can get dangerous" for both inmates and guards, Narvaez said.

Public safety concerns also have arisen in Kansas City, where a country music fan attacked before a concert last month waited four minutes for a 911 call to be answered and an hour for an ambulance to arrive. About one-quarter of 911 call center positions are vacant — "a huge factor" in the longer wait times to answer calls, said Tamara Bazzle, assistant manager

of the communications unit for the Kansas City Police Department.

In Biddeford, Maine, a 15-person roster of 911 dispatchers dipped to just eight employees in July as people quit a "pressure cooker job" for less stress or better pay elsewhere, Police Chief JoAnne Fisk said. The city is now offering fully certified dispatchers \$41 an hour to help plug the gaps on a part-time basis — \$10 an hour more than comparable new workers normally would earn.

This month, Biddeford also launched a \$2,000 bonus for city employees who refer others who get jobs. That comes a year after Biddeford adopted a four-day work week with paid lunch periods to try to make jobs more appealing, said City Manager Jim Bennett.

To attract workers, other governments have dropped college degree requirements and spiced up drab job descriptions. Nationally, the turnover rate in state and local governments is twice the average of the previous two decades, according federal labor statistics.

Uncompetitive wages were the most common reason for leaving cited in exit interviews, according to a

survey of 249 state and local government human resource managers conducted by MissionSquare Research Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based non-profit. The hardest positions to fill included police and corrections officers, doctors, nurses, engineers and jobs requiring commercial driver's licenses.

Along Florida's east coast, the Brevard County transit system and school district have been competing for bus drivers. On days when drivers are lacking, the transit system has cut the frequency of bus stops on some routes. The school system, meanwhile, has asked some bus drivers to run a second route after dropping children off at school, often resulting in the second busload arriving late.

Since 2022, the county has twice raised bus driver wages to a current rate of \$17.47 an hour. The school board recently countered with a \$5 increase to a minimum \$20 an hour for the upcoming school year. The goal is to hire enough drivers to regularly get kids to class on time, said school system communications director Russell Bruhn.

In Arkansas, the goal is to get foster kids into permanent homes in less than a year. But during the first three months of this year, the state met that target for just 32% of foster children — well below the national standard of over 40%. More than one-fifth of the roughly 1,400 positions in the Arkansas Division of Children and Family Services are vacant.

Many new employees leave in less than two years because of heavy caseloads and the "very difficult, emotionally tolling work," Mischa Martin, the Department of Human Services' deputy secretary of youth and families, told lawmakers last month.

"If we had a knowledgeable, experienced workforce," she said, "they would be able to work cases in a better way to get kids home quicker." □

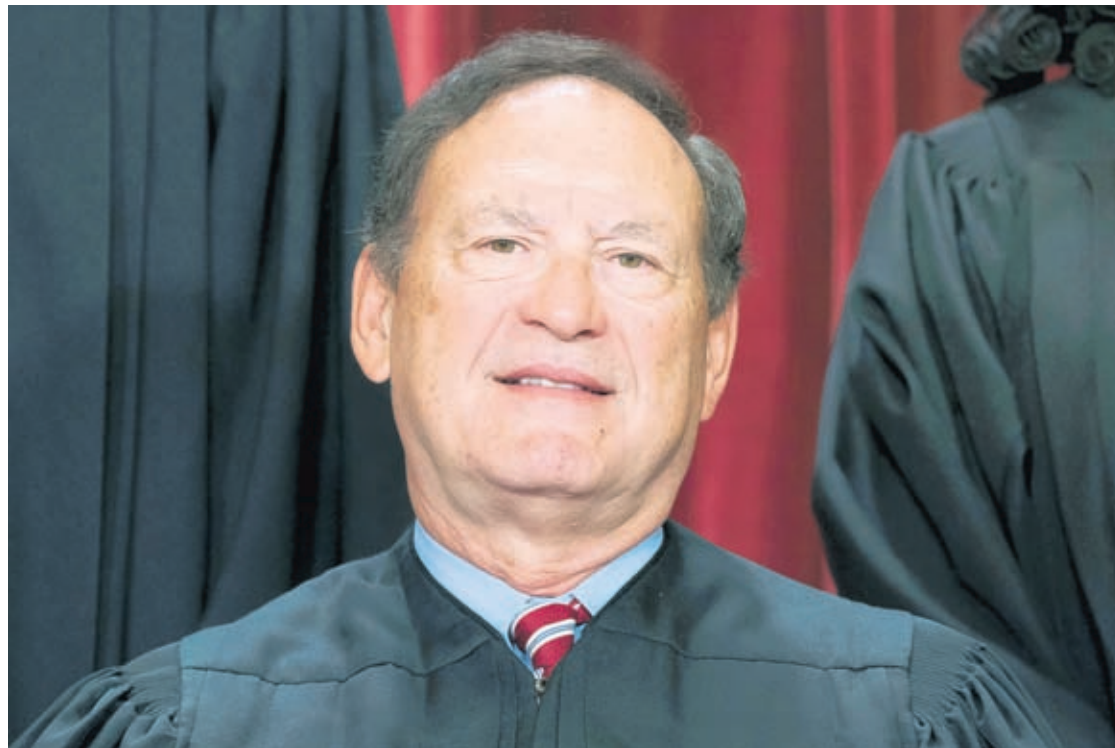
Justice Alito says Congress lacks the power to impose an ethics code

By **MARK SHERMAN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Justice Samuel Alito says Congress lacks the power to impose a code of ethics on the Supreme Court, making him the first member of the court to take a public stand against proposals in Congress to toughen ethics rules for justices in response to increased scrutiny of their activities beyond the bench.

"I know this is a controversial view, but I'm willing to say it. No provision in the Constitution gives them the authority to regulate the Supreme Court period," Alito said in an interview he gave to the Wall Street Journal opinion pages. An account of the interview, which the paper said took place in New York in early July, was published Friday. Democrats last week pushed Supreme Court ethics legislation through a Senate committee, though the bill's prospects in the full Senate are dim.

All federal judges other than the justices already adhere to an ethics code that was developed by the federal judiciary. But the Supreme Court's unique



Associate Justice Samuel Alito joins other members of the Supreme Court as they pose for a new group portrait, Oct. 7, 2022, at the Supreme Court building in Washington.

Associated Press

status it's the only federal court created by the Constitution puts it outside the reach of those standards that apply to other federal jurists. Democrats first sought to address that after ProPublica reported earlier this year that Justice Clarence Thomas participated in lavish vacations and a real estate deal with a top Republican donor and after Chief Justice John Rob-

erts declined to testify before the committee about the ethics of the court. Since then, ProPublica also revealed that Alito had taken a luxury vacation in Alaska with a Republican donor who had business interests before the court. The Associated Press reported in early July that Justice Sonia Sotomayor, aided by her staff, has advanced sales of her books

through college visits over the past decade.

The 73-year-old Alito, who joined the court in 2006, has rejected the idea that he should have disclosed the Alaska trip or stepped away from cases involving the donor, hedge fund owner Paul Singer. Alito penned his own Wall Street Journal op-ed, which was published hours before ProPublica posted its story.

Alito said that he is unwilling to leave allegations unanswered, though he acknowledged judges and justices typically don't respond to their critics.

"And so at a certain point I've said to myself, nobody else is going to do this, so I have to defend myself," he said in the newest column. While no other justice has spoken so definitively about ethics legislation, Roberts has raised questions about Congress' authority to oversee the high court.

In his year-end report in 2011, Roberts wrote that the justices comply with legislation that requires annual financial disclosures and limits their outside earned income. "The Court has never addressed whether Congress may impose those requirements on the Supreme Court. The Justices nevertheless comply with those provisions," Roberts wrote.

The justices have so far resisted adopting an ethics code on their own, although Roberts said in May that there is more the court can do to "adhere to the highest standards" of ethical conduct, without providing specifics. □

U.S. proposes 18% fuel economy increase for new vehicle fleet

By **TOM KRISHER**
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — The U.S. government wants to raise the fuel economy of new vehicles 18% by the 2032 model year so the fleet would average about 43.5 miles per gallon in real world driving.

The proposed numbers were released Friday by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which eventually will adopt final mileage requirements. Currently the fleet of new vehicles must average 36.75 mpg by 2026 under corporate average fuel economy standards adopted by the administration of President Joe Biden, who reversed a rollback

made by former President Donald Trump.

The highway safety agency says it will try to line up its regulations so they match the Environmental Protection Agency's reductions in

greenhouse gas emissions. But if there are discrepancies, automakers likely will have to follow the most stringent regulation.

In the byzantine world of government regulation,

both agencies essentially are responsible for setting fuel economy requirements since the fastest way to reduce greenhouse emissions is to burn less gasoline. "I want to make clear that EPA and NHTSA will coordinate to optimize the effectiveness of both agency standards while minimizing compliance costs," NHTSA Acting Administrator Ann Carlson said.

A large auto industry trade group which includes General Motors, Toyota, Ford, Stellantis and others said requirements from the agencies should be lined up. "If an automaker complies with EPA's yet-to-be-finalized greenhouse gas emissions rules, they shouldn't

be at risk of violating CAFE rules (from NHTSA) and subject to civil penalties," John Bozzella, CEO of the Alliance for Automotive Innovation, said in a statement. However the alliance has said the EPA's proposed cut in carbon emissions will require a huge increase in electric vehicle sales that's not attainable by 2032. The EPA says the industry can reach the greenhouse gas emissions goals if 67% of new vehicles sold in 2032 are electric. Currently, EVs make up about 7% of new vehicle sales. NHTSA said its proposal includes a 2% annual improvement in fuel mileage for passenger cars, and a 4% increase for light trucks. □



Traffic on the Hollywood Freeway, Dec. 12, 2018, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Extreme heat moves east where many will see their hottest days of the year

BY DREW COSTLEY and JOSEPH B. FREDERICK
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Carlos Reyes sought shade under a tree in the Bronx on a day that felt like it was over 100 degrees (38 degrees Celsius) because of the heat and humidity.

"It's not like when you were younger, you were playing around," said the 56-year-old who runs a daycare center. "Now it's like you got the humidity. It makes you kind of not breathe the same way. So when you walk, you get a little more tired, a little more exhausted."

Reyes was one of nearly 200 million people in the United States, or 60% of the U.S. population, who are under a heat advisory or flood warning or watch and have been since Thursday, according to the National Weather Service.

Dangerous heat is forecast to engulf much of the eastern half of the United States Friday as extreme temperatures spread from the Midwest into the Northeast and mid-Atlantic where some residents will see their hottest temperatures of the year.

Although much of the country does not cool much on normal summer nights, night temperatures are forecast to stay hotter



A tour guide fans herself while working in Times Square as temperatures rise, July 27, 2023, in New York.

Associated Press

than usual, prompting excessive heat warnings from the Plains to the East Coast. From Thursday to Friday, the number of people under a heat advisory rose from 180 to 184 million and the number of people under a flood warning or watch dropped from 17 to 10 million.

Moisture moving into the Southwest has cooled somewhat the southernmost counties of California and parts of southern Arizona, but excessive heat warnings remain for much of the region.

On top of the heat, severe thunderstorms are forecast for multiple regions of the country. There are forecasts with flash flood warnings for Great Lakes and Ohio Valley, west to the Middle Missouri Valley through Saturday morning. There are severe thunderstorm warnings with a chance of quarter-sized hail Friday night for the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

Tornado watches are posted in Wisconsin and New Hampshire, in addition to the heat advisories and po-

tential for severe storms.

The prediction for continued excessive heat comes as the World Meteorological Organization and the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service declared July 2023 the hottest month on record this week.

Scientists have long warned that climate change, driven by the burning of fossil fuels, by deforestation and by certain agricultural practices, will lead to more and prolonged bouts of extreme weather.

On Thursday, heat and humidity in major cities along the East Coast, including Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and New York City, created a real feel above 100 degrees Fahrenheit (37.8 degrees Celsius). Forecasters expect several records may break Friday with temperatures 10 to 15 degrees Fahrenheit (5.5 to 8 degrees Celsius) above average.

The "dangerous" heat wave, as the National Weather Service called it, won't subside until Sunday. But Bob Oravec, lead forecaster with the service's Weather Prediction Center, said the hottest temperatures will happen on Friday. "By Sunday, the high temperature is going to be 86," he said, "so that's more typical weather you would expect in July."

The Salvation Army in the Bronx was one of hundreds of cooling centers open in New York City to give people a respite from the scorching heat.

"It's very hot every year. This year, it started last week, becoming very hot," said Robert Ciriaco, a corps officer with The Salvation Army. "(It's) very dangerous for people. Some people die. So that's why we open to offer people (a place) to come to be comfortable." □

Woman dies, 6 people hospitalized after boat hits Chicago breakwall and capsizes in Lake Michigan

CHICAGO (AP) — A woman died and six other people were hospitalized after a boat struck a Chicago breakwall early Friday and capsized in Lake Michigan amid strong winds and high waves, authorities said.

Chicago Deputy District Fire Chief Jason Lach said there was "a huge increase in wind and wave activity" with winds up to 30 mph (48 kph) around the time the boat struck the wall and capsized. The seven boat-

ers were returning to shore about 4 a.m. when their boat hit the breakwall, police and Chicago Fire Department Chief Juan Hernandez told the Chicago Sun-Times.

A woman who was about 20 did not survive after she became trapped under the boat, which capsized near Chicago's "Playpen" area, where boaters frequently gather near the shoreline, officials said.

Her body was recovered

after a search was briefly suspended because of bad weather, Chicago police said. The six other boaters, four women and two men between the ages of 20 and 30, were rescued from the lake, including one person who swam to shore. They were hospitalized and Hernandez said one of the six was in serious condition at Northwestern Memorial Hospital while the others were in fair to serious condition. □



Marine units officers from the Chicago Police Department and Chicago Fire Department investigate the scene where a boat capsized overnight Friday, July 28, 2023 in Chicago.

Associated Press

Defense Secretary Austin says the U.S. stands with countries against China's 'bullying behavior'

By ROD McGUIRK

Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)

— U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Friday the United States stands with countries fighting Chinese "bullying behavior" as he launched bilateral talks in Australia aimed at countering Beijing's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific region.

Austin and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in the Australian city of Brisbane late Thursday ahead of annual bilateral meetings on Friday and Saturday that will focus on a deal to provide Australia, a defense treaty partner, with a fleet of submarines powered by U.S. nuclear technology.

Ahead of a meeting with Australian Defense Minister Richard Marles, Austin said both countries share concerns about China's break from international laws and norms that resolve disputes peacefully and without coercion. "We've seen troubling P.R.C. coercion from



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, second left, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, second right, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, center, Australian Defense Minister Richard Marles, right, and Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong pose for a group photo prior to a lunch in Brisbane, Australia Friday, July 28, 2023.

Associated Press

the East China Sea, to the South China Sea, to right here in the Southwest Pacific," Austin told reporters, referring to the People's Republic of China.

"We'll continue to support

our allies and partners as they defend themselves from bullying behavior," he added.

China has imposed a series of official and unofficial trade barriers in recent

years against Australian exports including coal, wine, barley, beef, seafood and wood. The barriers are widely seen as a punitive reaction to Australian government policy that has

cost Australian exporters as much as \$15 billion a year. Australia's icy relationship with Beijing was thawing since a change of Australian government at elections last year. Meanwhile, the sharing of U.S. nuclear secrets with Australia takes that bilateral relationship to a new level.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese is planning state visits to both the United States and China before the end of the year.

Under the AUKUS partnership an acronym for Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States Australia will buy three Virginia-class submarines from the United States and build five of a new AUKUS-class submarine in cooperation with Britain.

Australian media have focused on a letter signed by more than 20 Republican lawmakers to President Joe Biden that warned the deal would "unacceptably weaken the U.S. fleet" without a plan to boost U.S. submarine production. □

Singapore hangs first woman in 19 years after she was convicted of trafficking 31 grams of heroin

By EILEEN NG

Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia

(AP) — Singapore conducted its first execution of a woman in 19 years on Friday and its second hanging this week for drug trafficking despite calls for the city-state to cease capital punishment for drug-related crimes.

Activists said another execution is planned next week.

Saridewi Djamani, 45, was sentenced to death in 2018 for trafficking about 31 grams (1 ounce) of diamorphine, or pure heroin, the Central Narcotics Bureau said. It said the amount was "sufficient to feed the addiction of about 370 abusers for a week."

Singapore's laws mandate the death penalty for any-

one convicted of trafficking more than 500 grams (17.6 ounces) of cannabis and 15 grams (0.5 ounces) of heroin.

Djamani's execution came two days after that of a Singaporean man, Mohammed Aziz Hussain, 56, for trafficking around 50 grams (1.7 ounces) of heroin.

The narcotics bureau said both prisoners were accorded due process, including appeals of their convictions and sentences and petitions for presidential clemency.

Human rights groups, international activists and the United Nations have urged Singapore to halt executions for drug offenses and say there is increasing evidence it is ineffective as a deterrent. Singapore authorities insist capital

punishment is important to halting drug demand and supply.

Human rights groups say it has executed 15 people for drug offenses since it resumed hangings in March 2022, an average of one a month.

Anti-death penalty activists said the last woman known to have been hanged in Singapore was 36-year-old hairdresser Yen May Woen, also for drug trafficking, in 2004.

Transformative Justice Collective, a Singapore group which advocates for the abolishment of capital punishment, said a new execution notice has been issued to another prisoner for Aug. 3, the fifth this year alone.

It said the prisoner is an ethnic Malay citizen who



The central business district is shrouded by haze in Singapore, on Sept. 23, 2019.

Associated Press

worked as a delivery driver before his arrest in 2016. He was convicted in 2019 of trafficking around 50 grams (1.7 ounces) of heroin and his appeal was dismissed last year, it said.

The group said the man

had maintained in his trial that he believed he was delivering contraband cigarettes for a friend to whom he owed money, and he didn't verify the contents of the bag as he trusted his friend. □

Bolivia is the latest South American nation to use China's yuan

By **CARLOS VALDEZ** and **DANIEL POLITI**

Associated Press

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — Bolivia is now using the yuan to pay for imports and exports, becoming the latest country in South America to regularly use the Chinese currency in a small but growing challenge to the hegemony of the U.S. dollar for international financial transactions in the region.

Between May and July of this year, Bolivia conducted financial operations amounting to 278 million Chinese yuan (\$38.7 million), which accounts for 10% of its foreign trade during that period, Economy Minister Marcelo Montenegro said on Thursday.

"We're already using the yuan. It's a reality and a good start," Montenegro said during a news conference. "Banana, zinc, and wood manufacturing exporters are conducting transactions in yuan, as well as importers of vehicles and capital goods." These electronic transactions are



A money exchange shop worker counts Chinese yuan banknotes in La Paz, Bolivia, Wednesday, July 26, 2023.

carried out through the state-owned Banco Unión. "The amount being used in yuan is still relatively small, but it will increase over time," Montenegro said. With these transactions, Bolivia joins other countries in South America, most notably Brazil and Argentina, which are using the yuan.

The three countries are ruled by leftist or left-leaning governments. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the use of the yuan is growing especially "in those countries that are looking to establish stronger ties with China, that view themselves as in some way politically aligned on

this particular objective on decreasing their overall reliance on the dollar and on the U.S. in general," said Margaret Myers, director of the Asia & Latin America Program at the Washington-based Inter-American Dialogue. The use of the yuan comes at a time when China's

footprint in the region is increasing with rising trade and investment.

"There is a lot of anxiety in Washington about threats to the special role of the dollar in regions like Latin America," Benjamin Gedan, director of the Latin America Program at the Washington-based Wilson Center, said. "China's new role as a lender of last resort in Argentina, and the use of the yuan for international trade by Bolivia, are a sign of the times."

Earlier this year, Argentina's government unveiled a plan to use the yuan to pay for imports from China as a way to preserve its dwindling foreign reserves and it has raised the possibility of paying off debts with the International Monetary Fund using the Chinese currency. In Brazil, the yuan surpassed the euro as the second most important currency in its foreign reserves at the end of 2022, when 5.37% of the central bank's holdings were in the Chinese currency, compared to 4.74% for the euro. □

Associated Press

Two taxi drivers arrested in Mexican resort of Cancun for assaulting van carrying foreign tourists

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Two taxi drivers have been arrested in the Mexican city of Cancun for assaulting a van carrying foreign tourists, prosecutors said Friday. The events in the Caribbean

coast resort on Thursday were the latest in a months-long string of assaults on vehicles that medallion-cab drivers suspect of being operated by ride-hailing apps such as Uber.

Prosecutors in the Caribbean coast state of Quintana Roo said such behavior will not be tolerated.

"Strong action will be taken to ensure that the state is a safe destination for local inhabitants and visitors," the state prosecutor's office said in a statement.

Local residents posted video on social media showing at least two uniformed cab drivers bashing a Chevy Suburban with poles and other objects.

The van driver attempts to escape with the vehicle's tailgate open, according to the footage, and the tourists' luggage spills into the street. Three women can later be seen retrieving their luggage from the street.

"What are you doing?" cries one woman in English

as belligerent cabbies mill around the scene, carrying what looked like improvised cudgels. "That is not okay."

A local business owner who filmed the incident invited the women to take refuge in her store. The video shows the taxi drivers chasing the driver of the Suburban down the street until he reached a police officer.

The state prosecutors' office said two taxi drivers were charged with robbery, and causing damage and injuries.

Local media reported the Suburban was not run through a ride-hailing app but by a local, non-medallion limousine service. Past incidents of taxi drivers attacking private vehicles in Cancun were based on

the mistaken assumption they were Uber cars.

Cancun residents organized a boycott of medallion taxis in January following a week of blockades and violent incidents by drivers protesting the ride-hailing app Uber.

Road blockades, stone throwing and cabbies physically getting in the way had prevented tourists from boarding Uber vehicles. The U.S. issued a travel advisory warning that "past disputes between these services and local taxi unions have occasionally turned violent, resulting in injuries to U.S. citizens in some instances."

Ride-hailing apps were blocked in Cancun until January, when a court granted an injunction allowing Uber to operate. □



An Uber car drives through LaGuardia Airport in New York, March 15, 2017.

Associated Press

Aruba's underwater wonderland



ORANJESTAD - Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating under water spots, where you can take your snorkeling gear and we selected the top spots for you.

Tres Trapi

Tres Trapi means tree steps in Papiamentu, Papiamentu is together with Dutch the official language spoken on Aruba. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by the tree steps carved into the rocks. Tres Trapi is a small rocky beach, located on the north-western side of the island, approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you can easily walk over the beach into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While snorkeling you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea

stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean sea and if you are lucky during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animal, keep your distance and enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.

Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it



had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its port-side in Malmok bay, and the sunken world war two ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.

Baby Beach

Baby beach; a white beach, with a crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through the old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban culture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Baby beach is an excellent

beach for snorkeling, especially if you want to go with small children, because the water remains shallow and there are still many underwater wonders to see. In the ocean there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.

Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. You reach the beach by a bridge through the mangroves and then you will have several entrances to the sea. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, wooden stairs made to enter the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. Mangel Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is just like snorkel heaven. □



2,000,000 SUMMER POINT GIVEAWAY – 20 WINNERS DAILY

SUPER
BINGO
SATURDAY!

Super 4-Card BINGO
starting at 1pm!
\$7 for 4-Card BINGO | 8 Games to Play
\$1,500 in Cash Prizes
SPECIAL PROGRESSIVE GAME
Jackpot within 50 Calls | 51 Calls or more \$111
Additional \$500 Cash Prize in our
Monthly Early Bird Drawing when you
purchase your card before noon!

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Offering a wide variety of Retail & Dining Outlets,
Salon & Spa Services, Souvenirs and more.

Dunkin Donuts | Baskin Robbins | Fusion Piano & Wine Bar
Hungry Piranha | Twist of Flavors | Juan Valdez Café
The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood
Auntie Anne's Pretzels

Alhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



A brief history of the California Light House

(Oranjestad)—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curacao names Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special connection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Lighthouse at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along the beach all the way to Westpunt carrying the cargo, poles, cement, and all these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck. These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr. Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work. It was very challenging because it was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very iso-



lated. There were no hotels or roads to get there. There was only a donkey trail. Those were the only means of transportation."

Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the

power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they dismantled it, and after many years, I heard that it is in a train museum in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30 kilometers out to sea." Mr.

Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very interesting history. The reason why the lighthouse was built, according to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light. In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curacao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curacao responded to Aruba to come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914 to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the lighthouse after much research was documented in his book 'History of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.' He found many details: "I found out that the height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was also the presence of coral. There is a long steel cable from where the light is, and under the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters wide, which is a block of solid iron attached to a cable. When you re-

lease it upwards, it comes down, and the weight that comes down pulls it up, gradually. And while it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite direction. The Lighthouse rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets, until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30 meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the lighthouse rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live on for future generations. □



2,000,000 SUMMER POINT GIVEAWAY – 20 WINNERS DAILY

Free Shirt Sunday!

Get a **FREE** Alhambra
T-Shirt when you earn
250 Slot Points on Sunday with
your **Players' Club card!**

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Offering a wide variety of Retail & Dining Outlets,
Salon & Spa Services, Souvenirs and more.

Dunkin Donuts | Baskin Robbins | Fusion Piano & Wine Bar
Hungry Piranha | Twist of Flavors | Juan Valdez Café
The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood
Auntie Anne's Pretzels

Alhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



Aruba's Nature is to be Cherished



ST. CRUZ — The national park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There is numerous wildlife to discover like for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches. There are more places on the island that are a preserved area like the Bubali Plas which is a bird sanctuary.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In

the national park, a Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches. A very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Bubali Magic

This beautiful close-up image of the pink bird is courtesy of Michiel Oversteegen of the Aruba Birdlife Conservation. This important foundation showcases and builds awareness of Aruba's birds and other native flora and fauna. You may have seen a 'pink cloud' lately at the Bubali or Spanish Lagoon Wetlands areas? It's most likely



to be Roseate Spoonbills (*Ajaia ajaja*) or 'Chucharon Cora' as they are known in Papiamentu. This unusual looking bird forages in shallow muddy water while sweeping its flattened bill from side to side to catch small fish, crustaceans and other aquatic invertebrates. The Roseate Spoonbill remains an uncommon sight as they are vulnerable to degradation of feeding and nesting habitats (Wetlands). (Source: arikok national park)

The aforementioned is just a part of what Aruba's nature has to offer. We cannot stress enough to go, see for yourself. The island has the most beautiful beaches but it is also worthwhile

to go beyond this and get an idea of our entire island. Lately there is a discussion going on about the effect certain activities have on our nature, for example the ATV vehicles cause a lot of dust, noise and leave tire tracks. Animals live in these areas where the vehicles run, often with high speed and with detrimental consequences to flora and fauna. Motorized vehicles are forbidden to drive on the sand dunes in the Northern part of the island and all beaches in Aruba are forbidden for any motorized vehicle. Treasure our island to enjoy it like you do: as a tropical and natural paradise. We truly appreciate it! □



For Sale

Asking Price:
USD 990,000,-

A 2-story House with 5 Bedrooms and 4 Bathrooms a nice pool area. In a good neighborhood in front of the Marriott Hotel.

ALL RENTAL \$3500.-MONTHLY

For more information
whatsapp: **5941317**

Episode 30

Island curiosities and anecdotes of the 18th century

The Reverend Bosch, whose historical untrustworthiness has been mentioned before, possesses the merits of his demerits. He is a great hand at giving most charming descriptions. According to his comments here is the Aruba of about 1825:

“The Arubans are simple, obliging and honest. The engagements they enter into in matters of trade, though they undertake to comply with them only by word of mouth, are met in the most loyal manner, to which the Jews do not make an exception. On other grounds they occasionally quarrel with each other, which, of course, is no more than can be expected because of the double friction existing here, partly arising from the smallness of the society to which the more prominent persons here are confined, partly from family relations. Since they continually intermarry the majority of the more important residents are brothers-in-law or cousins.

However, I was greatly pleased to note that a family –estrangement of which I had become aware during one of my journeys on Aruba, had ceased to exist on my making the next. Their way of life is of the most monotonous; the uniformity of the climate, only varied by a rare downpour of rain, is largely contributive to this. With a very few exceptions people do not pass their time reading, also



because they wrongly interpret an antique maxim, having been informed by their forefathers that reading may drive man insane”.

“A vessel arriving from the opposite coast periodically breaks the monotony of this life and occasions an interchange of questions and bits of information. An arrival from Curacao, however, causes a much greater stir, for such a one not only provides oral information, but also brings letters and the Curacao paper. If any of the inhabitants has been himself to Curacao, there is much he can tell on his return about the great buildings, the many carriages, the splendor of attire and furniture’ nor does he omit to speak of how he paid his respects to the governor,

and especially of how cordially he has been received by the secretary. He or she would be sure to go more frequently to Curacao; but the laborious struggling against wind and current in a small vessel causes people to be afraid of the sea”. “From time of years the commander has been the island’s oracle and the man in whom all power and authority repose. He used to have at his disposal, besides two soldiers guarding the fort, the so-called captain of the Indians, a white native was the executor of his commands. He settled every dispute, often even those arising within a household.

On my first visits to Aruba I attended several sessions of the Court, whose pro-



ceedings made me laugh heartily, the cases dealt with testifying to the simplicity of those in the lower stations of life.

A woman lodged a complaint with the commander against some of her neighbors who had thrown stones at her cottage. She had taken “the corpus delict along”, a basket full of big stones of the kind that is to be found in the environs of the bay by the thousand”.

“Another time I heard the commander chides somebody and tells him that the commandments said a child should honor its parents. I did not rightly understand this allusion believing the man in question to be the parent for he was over

fifty years old, but somebody else was fetched, a man of seventy or over, who, however, was agile and strong. This was the real father, who had lodged a complaint with the commander against his fifty-two or fifty-three year old son-master of a vessel- for having called him bad names. After plaintiff and accused had been heard in due form, they were both sent away with a reprimand. The father, as it turned out, was not entirely free from blame himself; during that quarrel with his son he had been in his cups, which was of rather frequent occurrence as his craving for rum was increasing rather than decreasing with advancing years”. □



Trial of Giles Corey.



col. Allen Morrisoon

Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use (part 2)



(Oranjestad)—In last week's edition, we shared with our readers some medicinal use for plants and fruits, passed down from our elders through generations. This week, we present two more uses of fruits and plants for medicinal use.

Sweet potato

According to our elders, sweet potato is mostly useful for low blood pressure. People who suffer from low blood pressure were advised to eat sweet potato 2 to 3 times a week. However, if you have high blood pressure, it is best not to eat

too much sweet potato, as this raises blood pressure. Sweet potatoes are also great for people who work hard labor jobs, and it's been said to be aid blood circulation in the body, as well as help those with hemorrhoids or diarrhea. Many of our elders opted to



week in the ground. It was said that once you start to notice the ground crack underneath the flowers, it is time to harvest. This should happen around month 3.

Pomegranate

Pomegranates are also one of the easier fruits to plant and harvest. Originated from Persia, this plant can grow almost everywhere. In Aruba, there are many homes that have a tiny or big pomegranate tree. You may be wondering what the difference is between a small and big pomegranate tree, for which the answer is based on harvest time. Tiny trees produce tinier pomegran-

if you just throw the seeds on the ground, they could grow into a tree.

In terms of medicinal use, pomegranate skins are said to have a few benefits for our health. According to customs, pomegranate skin tea can help those that suffer from diarrhea. Dried pomegranate skin tea is also good for people who have worms. Pomegranate flowers can be boiled to make a drink and this can be used for irritated gums; just take a swig and let the tea sit in your mouth for a couple minutes. □

Source: Remedi i Kustumber di nos Bieunan (Medicine and Customs of our Elderly) by Dinah Veeris

Create museum memories

ORANJESTAD — Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you these museums.

Museum of Industry Aruba

The Museum of Industry is located in San Nicolas—better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum exhibits the industrial history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history, which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments Fund in 2003 so it can be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Aruba Museum Foundation (Fundacion Museo Aruban), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban cultural sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 6 pm.

For more information, check out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba.

Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in the area has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's, AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.

In 1997, the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004, a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006, restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the soon-to-be exhibition space. In December 2007, the key to the complex was delivered and



the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location, the National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts attractive public programs, including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm. For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 39 Quebec

1 Diamonds, native e.g. 40 Florida

5 Gooney player stuff 41 Sports

10 Leading figures

12 Praline bit 42 Theater

13 Inge work award

14 Striped rock

15 Feel queasy

16 Back muscle

18 Toddy base

19 Like some toddlers

21 Rage

22 View from the moon

24 Dined at home

25 Cascade

29 Sharpen

30 Page of "The Umbrella Academy"

32 Squid's squirt

33 Letter before omega

34 Letter after zeta

35 Freak

37 Polite refusal

P	A	C	E	S		C	A	S	T	S
A	L	O	N	E		H	I	T	O	N
S	P	A	D	E		I	N	A	W	E
T	I	S		M	I	N	T	T	E	A
A	N	T		S	R	O		I	R	K
S	E	E	N		S	O	L	O	S	
		R	O	C		K	I	N		
	A	B	B	O	T		E	B	B	S
O	R	R		R	I	G		R	U	T
S	C	A	M	P	E	R		E	R	R
C	A	K	E	S		A	G	A	P	E
A	D	E	L	E		P	O	K	E	S
R	E	S	T	S		H	O	S	E	S

Yesterday's answer

DOWN

1 Fizzy

2 Green,

3 Napoli's nation

4 Singer Waits

5 Petty fight

6 Table part

7 Doomed

8 Grow up

9 Foe

11 Choice of colors

17 Sticks

20 Packing box

21 Last

23 Ran-sacking

25 Prevailed

26 Turkey's capital

27 Deceives

28 Hand

29 Daily

31 Linger

33 Corrals

36 Poker prize

38 Bran bit

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
10				11		12			
13						14			
15				16	17			18	
19			20				21		
	22					23			
			24						
	25	26					27	28	
29					30				31
32				33				34	
35			36			37	38		
39						40			
41							42		

7-29

AXYDI.BAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

7-29

CRYPTOQUOTE

F M N B O M V T . V G G Q F M C F P

O P T B F G E P O B D N G B L O M R

O M O D F G M O H P W G B D .

— I E I F O V J F H R

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: LET US LIVE LIKE FLOWERS. WILD AND BEAUTIFUL AND DRENCHED IN SUN. — ELLEN EVERETT

Despite price hikes, well known P&G brands like Tide and Crest continue to sell

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Procter & Gamble reported better-than-expected fourth-quarter profits and revenue, showing that the appetite for established brands like Crest toothpaste, Tide detergent and Charmin toilet paper is still strong even as the consumer products company pushes up prices. P&G increased prices by about 7% across various brands from the same period last year, less than the 10% increase in third quarter. Global volume fell 1% in the quarter, however, still an improvement over a 3% drop in volume during the third quarter, and a 6% drop in the second quarter. During a call with analysts Friday, Chairman and CEO Jon Moeller said higher prices are tied to company innovations and aren't going away.

Examples include Cruiser 360 diapers, made for babies that move around a lot. Sales have increased 33% over the past 12 months, according to Andre Schulten, the company's chief financial officer. And a detox body wash sold in China called Safeguard goes for twice the market average price. Sales have almost doubled in the past year.



This July 9, 2015, file photo, shows signage outside Procter & Gamble corporate headquarters in downtown Cincinnati. Associated Press

"When you have a strong innovation program, it compels consumers to try even better performing products," Moeller said. During the fourth quarter prices for fabric care, as well as home and health care, went up 6% and grooming products rose 9%. Beauty items rose 8%. Pricing has been a boost to sales growth in nearly all of P&G's past 51 quarters, Moeller said. □

Europe's banks could survive a drastic economic downturn, stress test shows



The sun sets next to the European Central Bank in Frankfurt, Germany, Monday, July 24, 2023. Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— Europe's banking sector could withstand a severe economic downturn without depleting their financial buffers against losses, the European Central Bank said Friday.

A survey of 98 large and medium-sized banks done by the ECB's supervisory arm in conjunction with the European Banking Authority showed that even in the most adverse scenario a fall of almost 10% in economic output over three years banks would still have enough capital to cover losses and then some.

The stress test was not a pass-fail exercise for banks in the 20 countries that use the euro currency. Rather, results for individual banks will be used by banking regulators in determining how much capital they need to hold in reserve. □

Honey Dolls
MASSAGE AND ESCORT SERVICE

Beautiful Latin Girls
Pick-up & Delivery

Serving Men - Couple - Women - All Genders

+297 565-9535

WWW.PLEASUREINARUBA.COM

Sesame is being newly added to some foods



Sesame dinner rolls sit on a mat in Concord, N.H., on Oct. 12, 2015.

Associated Press

By JONEL ALECCIA
AP Health Writer

Food manufacturers who deliberately add sesame to products and include the ingredient on labels are not violating a new federal food allergy law, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said Wednesday. The Center for Science in the Public Interest, a food safety advocacy group, had petitioned the FDA to halt an unintended consequence of the January law more companies adding sesame to foods that didn't have it before. But the agency denied the advocacy group's request. More than 1.6 million people in the U.S. are allergic to sesame, food allergy experts say. Food allergies can lead to serious, even deadly reactions.

Sesame can be found in obvious places, like sesame seeds on hamburger buns, but it is also a major ingredient in everything from protein bars to ice cream and is added to sauces and spice mixes. Restaurant chains like Olive Garden, Chick-Fil-A and Wendy's as well as bread makers whose products are in grocery stores and schools are adding sesame to their products. Producers say the new federal regulations to prevent cross-contamination are so stringent, that it's easier to add sesame and note it on the label than to try to keep the ingredient out of other foods and away from equipment. But food safety advocates say the practice endangers people with sesame

allergies.

"It limits our choice and it puts our community at greater risk," said Robert Earl, vice president of regulatory affairs for the non-profit group Food Allergy Research & Education. Since the law took effect, Earl said he has received reports of people having allergic reactions after eating formerly "safe" restaurant foods to which sesame was added.

Dr. Ruchi Gupta, a pediatrician and director of the Center for Food Allergy & Asthma Research at Northwestern University, called the FDA's decision "disappointing."

"It doesn't violate the law; people can do what they want," she said. "But in order to support these adults and children with sesame allergy, I would have hoped they would have come out in a way to prevent or discourage this."

The new law, which took

effect Jan. 1, requires all foods made and sold in the U.S. to be labeled if they contain sesame, designated by Congress as the nation's ninth major allergen.

Food industry experts and manufacturers alike said it was difficult, expensive and impractical to expect producers to eliminate cross-contamination risks. □



Marriott Aruba Surf Club PLATINUM SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront \$32,000
2 Bed Oceanside \$23,500
2 Bed Ocean view \$22,500
2 Bed Garden view \$16,000
3 Bed Ocean view \$29,000
WK 51 Ocean view \$60,000
WK 52 Ocean View \$60,000
WK 7 and 14 - all views

GOLD SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront \$17,500
2 Bed Oceanside \$14,500
2 Bed Ocean view \$12,000
2 Bed Garden view \$10,000
3 Bed Ocean view \$20,500

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club PLATINUM SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront \$36,000
2 Bed Ocean view \$24,000
1 Bed Ocean front \$17,000
1 Bed Ocean View \$14,500

GOLD SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront \$19,000
2 Bed Ocean view \$12,500
1 Bed oceanfront \$14,000

** Destination Points \$6.00 per point

La Cabana Beach Resort

1 bed wk 43 partial ocean view \$3,500

Divi Aruba Phoenix

1 Bed wk 32 \$3,000

**We are the #1
Rental Timeshare
agent for Aruba!**

We also RENT Aruba weeks for owners, Contact us to BUY, SELL or RENT any timeshare property.

Contact:
stephanier@conciergerealty.com
888-888-2204 Ext 104

Website:
www.conciergerealty.com
Broker: Stephanie Reidel
www.facebook.com/groups/MarriottArubaSurf/
www.facebook.com/groups/MarriottArubaOcean



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Dakota: Tel. 588 7364
Seroe Preto : Tel. 584 4833

Women in Difficulties

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118



Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
f @arubatoday

Like
us on
Facebook

facebook.com/arubatoday/

Running backs contract squabbles could lead to locker room dissension

By **ROB MAADDI**
 AP Pro Football Writer

Saquon Barkley worked out his contract squabble with the New York Giants and showed up for training camp. Josh Jacobs is holding out with the Las Vegas Raiders. Le'Veon Bell once sat out the entire season after getting the franchise tag.

Different running backs. Same problem. No solution on the horizon.

NFL teams have devalued running backs to the point where Bell's franchise total just five years ago was significantly higher at \$14.5 million. The tag for Barkley, Jacobs and Dallas' Tony Pollard was \$10.1 million this season.

Bell played on the franchise tag in 2017 but sat out the following year in Pittsburgh and ended up going to the New York Jets. The two-time All-Pro wasn't the same player he was with the Steelers and ended up bouncing around from Kansas City to Baltimore to Tampa Bay.

"My franchise tag was 14.5 and I walked away from it," Bell said on the AP Pro Football Podcast. "It's a respect thing. You told me you were going to do this for me but you didn't. ... I could've just ignored it, went inside the locker room and had been



New York Giants' Saquon Barkley, right, participates in a drill at the NFL football team's training facility in East Rutherford, N.J., Thursday, July 27, 2023.

Associated Press

playing. But that wouldn't have made me happy and I'm sure inside the locker room, everybody would've felt it and, as a team, we wouldn't have been good. I feel that's the same with Saquon.

He's trying to be the best he can, but obviously deep down, he's not happy because he wanted to be compensated. He still wants his teammates to be good so he showed up."

Barkley and the Giants agreed on a one-year deal that raised his contract val-

ue to \$11 million with incentives. He had threatened to skip the season because the Giants didn't give him a long-term deal but he had a change of heart.

"I could sit here and lie to you and be like, 'I wasn't disappointed, I wasn't this and that and the third,'" Barkley said. "That would just be a flat-out lie. But I am mature enough to understand that it's a business and understand that deals don't get done every year."

Barkley accounted for

29.1% of New York's offense last year but he watched the Giants give quarterback Daniel Jones (\$160 million) and left tackle Andrew Thomas (\$117.5 million) big money while he had no leverage.

Barkley said all the right things Thursday and isn't holding any grudges.

"I'm all about my teammates and my brothers getting paid," he said. "I'm all about success coming to them. ... Those guys deserve it. I'm so happy for them. You see all through-

out the league, there are people that get paid every single year, and I'm happy for those guys, too. But what I will say, for the running back position, not speaking necessarily on my teammates that got signed, there are a lot of running backs out here that are pivotal, key points to teams having success in this league, and helping teams have success in this league. The way that we are getting devalued, it's not fair at all. But life's not fair."

There was no anger or bitterness in Barkley's voice when he spoke to reporters. It speaks to his strong character. But it's natural for members of the position group to express frustration and disappointment. Austin Ekeler, Nick Chubb, Christian McCaffrey, Najee Harris and others have spoken out.

They met virtually last week to discuss ways to remedy the situation.

Some guys have quietly pointed out to The Associated Press and questioned why some injury-prone players at other positions got lucrative contracts. That's a departure from the old code players have among themselves. Don't begrudge someone else getting paid.



Phoenix Suns NBA basketball player Kevin Durant, right, watches a Washington Commanders NFL football practice at the team's training facility, Friday, July 28, 2023, in Ashburn, Va.

Associated Press

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
 AP Sports Writer

ASHBURN, Va. (AP) — Kevin Durant was among those in

attendance for the second open practice of Washington Commanders training camp Friday.

Kevin Durant attends Washington Commanders camp as a fan

The NBA star now playing for the Phoenix Suns grew up in the area in Seat Pleasant, Maryland, not far from the team's home stadium. Durant took in practice on the hottest day of the year so far from the suites atop the newly constructed bleachers on the sideline and was followed out by a group of fans, many taking photos or video and yelling, "KD!"

"It's great to have KD here," coach Ron Rivera said after practice. "I know he's a local guy. I know how much

of a Washington Redskins/Commanders fan he is. Great to have his support." Durant's presence is the latest positive sign of the Commanders in the spotlight since the new ownership group led by Josh Harris and including basketball Hall of Famer Magic Johnson took over last week, when the NFL approved the \$6.05 billion sale from Dan Snyder.

"It's great to have the fan-base back," Rivera said. "This has been really cool the last couple days. It has.

This is exciting. To have guys like KD come back and show their support means an awful lot to us."

Friday was the second consecutive day more than 3,000 fans braved the heat for practice at the team's practice facility not far from Dulles International Airport. "It feels good," safety Kam Curl said. "Everybody's coming out to practice, all the stuff on social media. You feel the excitement, and that just gives us motivation to come out and play harder."

Spence-Crawford could become a welterweight classic

By MARK ANDERSON

AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The person once known as the “baddest man on the planet” stood between Errol Spence Jr. and Terence Crawford at Thursday’s news conference, and just the mere presence of Mike Tyson further cemented the magnitude of their showdown.

Both undefeated fighters meet Saturday night, the winner unifying all four welterweight championships for the first time in boxing’s four-belt era that began in 2004.

Spence (28-0, 22 knock-outs) already owns the WBC, WBA and IBF titles, and Crawford (39-0, 30 KOs) holds the WBO belt. Crawford is a minus-146 favorite, according to FanDuel Sportsbook.

“I haven’t seen things like this in over 30 years — two of the best fighters in the world to decide who is truly the best,” Tyson said. This fight has been compared in many corners to so many other classic welterweight matchups such as two between Robert Duran and Sugar Ray Leonard in 1980, Leonard and Thomas Hearns the following year,



Errol Spence Jr., left, and Terence Crawford pose during a news conference Thursday, July 27, 2023, in Las Vegas. The two are scheduled to fight in an undisputed welterweight championship boxing match Saturday in Las Vegas.

Pernell Whitaker and Julio Cesar Chavez in 1993 and Shane Mosley and Oscar De La Hoya in 2000.

The boxers understand the build-up to the fight, each saying a victory would be his career highlight.

“This is going to be legendary,” Spence said. “This is going to be iconic. People are going to talk about this fight 30, 40 years from now when they talk about leg-

endary fights. When they talk about Leonard and Tommy Hearns and Marvin Hagler ... they’re going to talk about this fight the same way.” The fight sold out quickly, and on the secondary market, the cheapest tickets are well more than \$300, especially if someone is interested in actually having a seat and not standing for three hours. Much of the excite-

ment leading into the fight was because of how long it took to come together, the appetite for this meeting building up with boxing fans for several years. They always seemed destined to meet, though Spence twice survived serious car crashes. He was nearly killed in 2019 when he was ejected after losing control, and last year a 14-year-old hit him head

on.

Somehow, Spence not only escaped serious injuries both times and successfully underwent surgery in 2021 for a detached retina, he was able to focus on his career. The 33-year-old who lives in DeSoto, Texas, won the IBF title in 2017, claimed the WBC championship in 2019 and took the WBA championship last year.

“I’ve been fighting the best for a long time,” Spence said. “When you see all the legends of the sport, they fought each other and made historic fights. That’s what I want to do. Terence is one of the best fighters in the world and I’m one of the best fighters in the world, so we had to make this happen.”

Spence faces an opponent in Crawford who is a knockout machine, having ended 10 fights in a row by KO, boxing’s second-longest active streak.

Crawford, 35, has won titles in super lightweight and lightweight in addition to welterweight, capturing the latter after moving up in 2018. Should he beat Spence, the Omaha, Nebraska, native will become the first male boxer to unify two titles. □

Associated Press

White Sox’s Lynn and Kelly are heading to the NL West-leading Dodgers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles Dodgers, who have made pitching a priority in advance of the trade deadline, announced Friday that they’ve acquired Lance Lynn and Joe Kelly in a trade with the Chicago White Sox.

The NL West-leading Dodgers will send outfielder Trayce Thompson, pitcher Nick Nastrini and reliever Jordan Leasure to the White Sox.

Lynn has been mostly underwhelming this season. The 36-year-old right-hander is 6-9 with a 6.18 ERA and leads the American League in earned runs (79) and home runs allowed (28).

But Lynn has 139 strikeouts in 115 innings and 10.9 per

nine innings. In June, Lynn struck out 16 in a game against Seattle, setting a major-league mark for most strikeouts in a game by a pitcher with an ERA above 6.00.

He was an All-Star for the White Sox in 2021 and shortly after signed a \$38 million, two-year contract extension that included a club option.

Lynn began the 2022 season on the injured list with a meniscus tear suffered in spring training. He returned in mid-June and finished the season with an 8-7 record in 21 starts and a 3.99 ERA. He recorded 121 strikeouts in 121 2/3 innings. Lynn has spent most of his career in the AL. Besides the White Sox, he has

pitched for Minnesota, the New York Yankees and Texas. He began his career with St. Louis, and missed the 2016 season with them after undergoing Tommy John surgery.

He won a World Series with the Cardinals in 2011, his debut season in the majors. The following year he earned his first All-Star berth. Kelly returns to Los Angeles for his second stint with the Dodgers. The hard-throwing right-handed reliever recently returned from the injured list for elbow inflammation.

Kelly pitched for the Dodgers from 2019-21, winning the World Series during the pandemic-delayed 2020 season. He had a 3.59 ERA in 105 1/3 innings during

that span. Kelly isn’t the only former Dodger to land back in Los Angeles. Earlier this week, the team

acquired utilityman Kiké Hernández from the Boston Red Sox three years after he departed Los Angeles for the East Coast. □



Chicago White Sox starting pitcher Lance Lynn delivers during the first inning of the team’s baseball game against the Chicago Cubs on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, in Chicago.

Associated Press

Weekly SPECIALS



<p>WAS \$24.57</p> <p>\$20.57 Per KG</p> <p>Angus Entrecanto</p>	<p>WAS \$9.42</p> <p>\$7.99 Each</p> <p>Panamei Shrimp 41/50 CPT0 12oz</p>	<p>WAS \$16.57</p> <p>\$15.42 Per KG</p> <p>Angus Pepper Steak</p>	<p>WAS \$8.54</p> <p>\$7.40 Per BAG</p> <p>Halos Clementines 3lb</p>				
<p>WAS \$3.97</p> <p>\$3.37 Per KG</p> <p>Peppers Green</p>	<p>WAS \$8.85</p> <p>\$7.40 Per KG</p> <p>Half om Half/ Ground Beef/Pork</p>	<p>WAS \$2.17</p> <p>\$1.63 Per KG</p> <p>Cabbage Green USA</p>	<p>WAS \$2.83</p> <p>\$2.22 Each</p> <p>Lettuce Iceberg Wrapped</p>				
<p>WAS \$4.85</p> <p>\$4.49 Per BAG</p> <p>Apples Gala 3lbs</p>	<p>DIARY/FROZEN</p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td> <p>WAS \$2.62</p> <p>\$2.17 Each</p> <p>EE Original Margarine Spread Quarts 16oz</p> </td> <td> <p>WAS \$2.05</p> <p>\$1.71 Each</p> <p>TJ Farms Select California Blend 12oz</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			<p>WAS \$2.62</p> <p>\$2.17 Each</p> <p>EE Original Margarine Spread Quarts 16oz</p>	<p>WAS \$2.05</p> <p>\$1.71 Each</p> <p>TJ Farms Select California Blend 12oz</p>		
<p>WAS \$2.62</p> <p>\$2.17 Each</p> <p>EE Original Margarine Spread Quarts 16oz</p>	<p>WAS \$2.05</p> <p>\$1.71 Each</p> <p>TJ Farms Select California Blend 12oz</p>						
<p>HBC/GM</p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td> <p>WAS \$8.00</p> <p>\$5.71 Each</p> <p>Super Wet Azul Gel Blue 2.2lb</p> </td> <td> <p>WAS \$3.82</p> <p>\$3.42 Each</p> <p>Kleenex Facial Tissues White 150ct</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			<p>WAS \$8.00</p> <p>\$5.71 Each</p> <p>Super Wet Azul Gel Blue 2.2lb</p>	<p>WAS \$3.82</p> <p>\$3.42 Each</p> <p>Kleenex Facial Tissues White 150ct</p>	<p>DELI/BAKERY</p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td> <p>WAS \$2.85</p> <p>\$2.28 100 GR</p> <p>Yorkham</p> </td> <td> <p>WAS \$2.28</p> <p>\$1.71 100 GR</p> <p>Havarti Danish Cheese</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<p>WAS \$2.85</p> <p>\$2.28 100 GR</p> <p>Yorkham</p>	<p>WAS \$2.28</p> <p>\$1.71 100 GR</p> <p>Havarti Danish Cheese</p>
<p>WAS \$8.00</p> <p>\$5.71 Each</p> <p>Super Wet Azul Gel Blue 2.2lb</p>	<p>WAS \$3.82</p> <p>\$3.42 Each</p> <p>Kleenex Facial Tissues White 150ct</p>						
<p>WAS \$2.85</p> <p>\$2.28 100 GR</p> <p>Yorkham</p>	<p>WAS \$2.28</p> <p>\$1.71 100 GR</p> <p>Havarti Danish Cheese</p>						

AVAILABLE AT SHABA AND SAVANETA

<p>WAS \$5.88</p> <p>\$5.31 Each</p> <p>Ocean Spray Cranberry Juice Cocktail 64oz</p>	<p>WAS \$3.82</p> <p>\$3.42 Each</p> <p>Hak Chili con Carne 700g</p>	<p>WAS \$11.08</p> <p>\$10.28 Each</p> <p>Quaker Oats Old Fashioned 42oz</p>	<p>WAS \$4.17</p> <p>\$3.71 Each</p> <p>Spar Zonnebloemolie 1Ltr</p>	<p>WAS \$30.28</p> <p>\$25.71 Each</p> <p>Purina Dog Chow Complete Dry Food Original 18.5lb</p>
---	--	--	--	---

SUPER
Do it Center.

VALID FROM
28 JULY - 03 AUG 2023
and while supplies last

SUPER Do it Center Aruba | Shaba 3, Noord Aruba | 5831111 | customerservice@doit.aw